

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-13 and 15-21 remain in the application. Claims 1, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 29 have been amended. Claim 22 is new.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13 and 15-18 are definite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The term "candidate group" has been defined.

Claims 1 and 12 previously included the phrase "a candidate group of at least one alphabetic character." Applicants respectfully submit that a "group" may include only one object under the ordinary definition of the word. Nevertheless, the phrase has been eliminated from the claims.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-21 are enabling under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to clarify the comparisons and results disclosed in the specification on page 6, line 8 through page 7, line 6 and shown in Figure 8.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13 and 15-18 are patentable over the combination of Grover et al. (US 5,818,437 "Grover") in view of Yu et al. (US 5,852,414 "Yu").

The combination of Grover and Yu fails to disclose or suggest a processor operable to automatically perform a perform a second comparison of a second candidate group of characters to the set of stored words if the first comparison is unsuccessful, where the second character group includes a second character of the predetermined characters related to the pressed key, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Applicants find no disclosure in Grover or Yu related to automatically performing such a second comparison.

Figure 1, item 202 and item 604 (Figure 2) cited in the Office Action, as described as a key with multiple meanings and a processor, respectively. However there is no description in either reference related to a second comparison as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 12.

Grover discloses how a user selects correct words after the processor has made alternative combinations of the characters based on which keys have been pressed. Yu discloses how correct characters are selected by using separate electrical contacts in each key for each alternative character. These two documents thus disclose two alternative approaches how the user can determine one of the characters that are related to a pressed key.

The present invention has an added advantage that if an incorrect key is pressed, the system can automatically compensate and automatically correct for such an error. Neither document discloses anything about incorrect pressing of keys. If an error should occur in either of the cited references, the user would have to delete the pressed key, while the present invention can make corrections automatically if a wrong area of a key is pressed. Therefore it is difficult to see how the combination of the two documents would lead to the present inventive idea of checking and correcting erroneous pressing of keys.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 12, and dependent claims 2-11, 13, and 15-18, are patentable over the combination of Grover and Yu.


5. Claim 22 is new and is directed to the embodiment of the present invention described in the specification on page 5, line 20 through page 6, line 7, and shown in Figure 7.

None of the prior art references alone or in combination disclose or suggest the features of claim 22.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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